United Nations

FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.3

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.: General
16 April 2018

English only

Subsidiary Body for Implementation
Forty-eighth session
Bonn, 30 April to 10 May 2018

Item 21(b) of the provisional agenda
Administrative, financial and institutional matters
Budgetary matters

2017 secretariat activities, programme delivery highlights and financial performance

Annual report by the secretariat

Summary

This summary of the first annual report of the secretariat was prepared in response to the mandate received from the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-third session.[1] The annual report covers the secretariat's activities in 2017, programme delivery highlights and financial performance to facilitate the understanding of a broad range of stakeholders with regard to what the secretariat is delivering and the challenges it is facing. The 2017 annual report will be published on 30 April 2018 and made available at http://unfccc.int.

[1] Decision 21/CP.23, paragraph 18.

GE.18-05947(E)

1805947

Please recycle

I. Mandate

1. In the context of improving the efficiency and transparency of the UNFCCC budget process, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to prepare and make available an annual report as outlined in document FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.14, paragraph 37, to be considered at each session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation following the closure of the preceding financial year, providing information on the secretariat's activities in the preceding year, programme delivery highlights and financial performance.[2]

II. Scope of the annual report

2. The 2017 annual report of the secretariat highlights the results of activities of the secretariat and illustrates significant events held and partnerships forged during the year, as well as the outcomes of negotiations at COP 23. Furthermore, the report captures the outlook for 2018 and the crucial next steps towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. A summary of the report is provided below.

A. Achievements of the secretariat in 2017

1. Creating consensus on the global response to climate change

3. The secretariat facilitates dialogue among Parties each year to agree on common goals and approaches to address climate change. COP 23, held in Bonn, Germany, and presided over by Fiji, was a marked success. Key outcomes included the launch of the Talanoa Dialogue, the first-ever UNFCCC gender action plan, decisions on agriculture and the platform for indigenous peoples and local communities, and investments in climate action totalling USD 1 billion.

2. Bringing transparency to climate change commitments

4. The secretariat tracks the commitments of Parties, which is essential for the transparency of action and support. A robust monitoring, reporting and verification system supported by the secretariat has helped to build trust among Parties and identify the capacity-building needs of developing countries, has enhanced their ability to report on their actions and has contributed to the design and programming of targeted support.

3. Building resilience and adapting to climate change

5. The secretariat provides Parties with wide-ranging support on adaptation: from activities related to science and observation to planning and implementation. In 2017, the secretariat, by assisting expert bodies and committees, advanced national planning for adaptation; strengthened the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to foster the preparation of national adaptation plans that align with the Sustainable Development Goals; supported the launch of the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer; and built knowledge and capacity through adaptation-focused tools, platforms and training.

4. Delivering finance and technology where they are needed

6. The secretariat supports Parties in mobilizing finance for greenhouse gas emission reductions and climate-resilient development. In 2017, advances were made by the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility in delivering climate finance. The secretariat piloted the needs-based climate finance project in over 10 countries; initiated the Green Investment Catalyst round table process to mobilize private sector finance; and closely supported the Technology Mechanism to

[2] As footnote 1 above.

accelerate the diffusion of technology needed for the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

5. Fostering cooperation to realize the Paris Agreement's potential

7. To catalyse and support climate action by Parties, the secretariat cooperates with a wide range of non-Party stakeholders. In 2017, the secretariat supported the high-level champions of global climate action in advancing the agenda of the Marrakech Partnership, fostered new non-traditional partnerships; recognized innovative solutions through the Momentum for Change awards; and supported implementation of nationally determined contributions through its regional collaboration centres and the NDC Partnership.

B. Outlook for 2018 and beyond

8. In 2018, Parties will take stock of progress on pre-2020 implementation. The nationally determined contributions will be informed and inspired by the Talanoa Dialogue and events such as the Global Climate Action Summit and regional climate weeks. At COP 24 in Katowice, Poland, the Paris Agreement work programme will be completed, ensuring that the world is ready to accelerate the implementation of the Agreement. In 2018 and beyond, the secretariat will continue to carry out its core work and enhance its ability to support, encourage and build on the global response to climate change.

C. Finances

9. The annual report provides key financial information, including total funding in 2017, as well as budgets and actuals for the trust funds for the core budget and the international transaction log for the biennium 2016–2017.

III. Publication of the annual report

10. The 2017 annual report will be published on 30 April 2018 and made available at http://unfccc.int.